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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria/Romania/Hungary/Poland

SUBJECT Rate of Repatriated Prisoners in the
Satellite States

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1. In the port of Burgas, Bulgaria, several hundred Bulgarians released from Soviet forced labor camps are held in a concentration camp. These men and women (mostly men) were deported by the Soviets after the Soviet troops occupied Bulgaria in September 1944. They had been sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment by Soviet courts, and were now released under the Amnesty Law.

2. The Bulgarian Communist authorities are embarrassed by the arrival of these people, dumped on them by the Soviets after so many years of detention. Under the present Bulgarian law they should be kept in prison "for their crimes" as no amnesty has been passed as yet in Bulgaria. Moreover, if allowed to go free, they might cause a lot of trouble by relating their experiences in the USSR. This, the Bulgarian Communists fear, might become dangerous for them.

3. A similar situation exists in Rumania, where the repatriated former prisoners are held in a camp near Constanta. In Hungary the amnestied repatriates are being held in a camp in the Szolnok area. The Polish Government has asked the Soviet Government not to repatriate the amnestied Polish prisoners "until the necessary preparations have been made for their reception" - namely, until a special camp has been set up for them near the Soviet border.

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